



LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

PERMIT APPLICATIONPermit # 946 (Assigned by Department)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Scenic Rivers program is authorized by LRS title 56, Chapter 9 Part II. This law requires permits authorizing activities in or affecting rivers that have been designated by the Louisiana Legislature as Natural and Scenic. Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Information in this application is made a matter of public record through issuance of a public notice. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary, however, the data requested are necessary in order to communicate with the applicant and to evaluate the permit application. If necessary information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	Name of Agent (if any)
Address P.O. Box 44027	Address
Address	Address
City, State, Zip Baton Rouge, La 70804-4027	City, State, Zip
Phone 225-342-9025	Phone

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Brief summary of the description and purpose of the proposed activity (details to be attached as a separate document)
Clearing FEMA PA program eligible Hurricane Katrina debris from Tangipahoa River from Lee's Landing to Hwy 22.
Is any portion of the activity complete? YES or <u>NO</u> (If yes, indicate month and year of completion)

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Stream Name	Tangipahoa River	Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers of Adjacent Property Owners
Parish	Tangipahoa	Tangipahoa Parish Council
Section	See Attached	See Attached
Township		
Range		
Latitude/Longitude		

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Must be a separate document. See the attached instruction sheet for completing the assessment.

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION ACCURACY

Application is hereby made for a Scenic River Permit to authorize the activities described herein. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete, and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the proposed activities, or I am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Signature

Date



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

Dear Scenic River Permit Applicant:

Please review and concur on the following statement regarding the issuance of permits by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This agreement must be signed and returned before a Scenic River Permit can be issued.

"I have been advised and do understand that by applying for and accepting a Scenic Rivers permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, I am being allowed to engage in an activity which would otherwise be prohibited by law or for which a permit is required. I understand that the permit is not a license and confers no property right upon me. I specifically agree to abide by all State and Federal fish and wildlife laws and regulations, and all State and Federal laws and regulations which relate to this permit or the permitted activity, and by all other terms and conditions of this permit. I understand that the permit for which I am applying may be suspended, annulled, withdrawn or revoked and that I may be assessed civil penalties, all in accordance with the provision of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, and that I may be denied future permits as a consequence of my failure to fully and completely comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, as well as other laws and regulations pertinent thereto. If served with or notified of a cease and desist order signed by the Scenic Rivers Administrator, I agree to immediately and without delay cease all activities and operations which relate to the permitted activity or which are impacting the Scenic River, until such time as the matter can be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. I understand and agree that any permit issued to me by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the nature of a privilege which is being voluntarily extended to me by the Department and the failure on my part to cooperate with the Department can result in the loss of the privilege conferred and the denial of future requests for permits. By accepting this permit, I evidence my agreement to be bound by all conditions and stipulations set forth herein."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Martin".

Authorized Signature

Sam Martin

9-3-2015

Date

REV. 12/7/98

**LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS PERMIT REQUEST
TANGIPAHOA RIVER
SNAGGING & CLEARING**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) proposes to conduct snagging and clearing activities to remove hazards to navigation on the Tangipahoa River. The purpose of this project is to restore a navigable channel for both recreational and commercial use on the Tangipahoa River. As evidenced by the attached letter from Senator Cassidy, the public continues to complain of fallen trees and limbs, submerged logs, and stumps which were caused by Hurricane Katrina and obstruct the river. These would be removed using an appropriately sized barge-mounted lifting apparatus. The proposed clearing and snagging operations would be conducted between Highway 22 and Lee's Landing (Miles 15 to 8.5). Trees blocking the channel, which are attached to the bank, would be cut off at the bank before being removed, to minimize bank erosion. The debris would be hauled to a contractor supplied disposal site where it will be reduced in volume before being disposed in an approved landfill. No dredging would be conducted in conjunction with the clearing and snagging operations. Snagging and clearing work would be conducted between November 1, 2015, and March 15, 2016, so as to avoid impacting the threatened Gulf Sturgeon. This same type of operation was completed on the lower portion of the Tangipahoa by the US Coast Guard in March of 2013. Maps and drawings of the project area and removal activities can be found in the attached Coastal Use Permit. Color photographs of illustrative debris items are included in the attached Google Earth kmz file.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: The proposed clearing and snagging operations would be conducted between Highway 22 (30° 26' 38" / 90° 20' 04") and Lee's Landing (30° 24' 14" / 90° 19' 26"). This section of the Tangipahoa River extends from Township 6S/Range 8E to Township 7S/Range 9E on the Pontchatoula Quadrangle (1:62,500) map. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of adjacent property landowners may be obtained by contacting Jeff McKneely with the Tangipahoa Parish Council at: P.O. Box 215 Amite, Louisiana 70422. Mr. McKneely can also be reached at (985) 748-3211.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: To the best of our knowledge, CPRA has never been cited for a violation of the Scenic Rivers Act. CPRA has received a Coastal Use Permit/Consistency Determination (P20141388 & MVN-2015-00122 CD) from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the USACE. No other local, state, or Federal permit would be required to perform the proposed work. A site visit to the Tangipahoa River from the Highway 22 overpass to Lee's Landing was conducted on September 14, 2013, for the purpose of evaluating FEMA PA program eligibility of the proposed snagging and clearing work. Attending were representatives from Tangipahoa Parish, CPRA, GOHSEP, and FEMA. An alternative to the proposed snagging and clearing project is a no-action alternative. A no-action alternative would preserve the existing conditions of the Tangipahoa River with obstructions providing potential fish and wildlife habitat, but with navigational access to the Tangipahoa River reach from the Highway 22 overpass to Lee's Landing continuing to be restricted to shallow-draft non-mechanically powered boats with an increasing number of portage required areas. Increasing portage sites would increase impacts to the adjacent wooded Tangipahoa River ridges containing the river channel.

PERMIT EVALUATION CRITERIA: The Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act requires the evaluation of the impacts of the proposed action on the Tangipahoa River in relation to the following 12 criteria:

- a. Existing Land Use
- b. Historical/Archaeological Sites
- c. Economic Impact of the Project
- d. Wilderness/Rural Qualities
- e. Scenic/Aesthetic Values
- f. Recreational Use/Opportunities
- g. Ecological Systems Present
- h. Fish and Wildlife in the Area
- i. Botanical Elements (Vegetation)
- j. Geological Features
- k. Hydrological Features
- l. Water Quality/Quantity

These criterion were previously addressed by the USACE in Scenic River Permit 763 issued on September 11, 2009. Each criterion is addressed below. with excerpts from the April 1976 Final Composite Environmental Impact Statement for "Continued Maintenance, Amite River; Bayou Manchac; Tickfaw, Natalbay, Ponchatoula, Blood Rivers; Tangipahoa River; Tchefuncte and Bogue Falia Rivers; Bayou Lacombe; Bayou Bonfouca and Pass Manchac; Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana"; and updated information from recent site visits and prior coordination for clearing and snagging operations.

a. Existing Land Use

Existing Conditions. Numerous private and commercial camps are located on both banks of the Tangipahoa River between the Highway 22 bridge and Lake Pontchartrain. This river reach is used as a recreational area by the camp owners and the general public. The camp owners depend on the Tangipahoa River for access to the lake. A public boat launch facility is located at Lee's Landing.

Potential Impacts. No significant adverse potential impacts to existing land use are expected. Removing instream obstructions from the river channel will permit increased safe use of this waterway.

Mitigation Measures. Implementation of the proposed action would cause minimal and temporary effects on existing land use. No mitigation measures are required.

b. Historical/Archaeological Sites

Existing Conditions. A cultural resources investigation covering approximately eight miles of the Tangipahoa River from two miles below Lee's Landing to about one mile above the Highway 22 bridge was conducted in 1988. Thirty-nine potential historical/archaeological features were detected. All of these features were associated with bends in the river. The study concluded that there are possibly 8 or 9 wrecks in the investigated river reach.

Potential Impacts. Although subaerial instream obstructions were identified for removal, numerous instream obstructions that will be removed remain below the water surface where they could not be visually investigated and marked for removal. The potential exists that removal of subsurface instream obstructions could adversely impact undetected historical/archaeological features that lie on the river's bottom.

Mitigation Measures. The contractor is required to cease snagging and clearing activities and immediately notify appropriate Corps personnel if they should discover a historical/archaeological feature in the course of their work. No mitigation measures are required.

c. Economic Impact of the Project

Existing Conditions. The Tangipahoa River reach proposed for snagging and clearing activities is used recreationally by both private and commercial interests. Numerous private and commercial camps are located on both banks of the river. A boat launch facility is located at Lee's Landing. Recreational activities account for the economic feature of the proposed project area.

Potential Impacts. The proposed snagging and clearing activities will not result in adverse economic impacts. If this reach of the Tangipahoa River is not snagged and cleared, economic benefits derived from recreational activities on the river would be adversely impacted as recreational opportunities are reduced by the decreased ability of boats to safely navigate the river.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

d. Wilderness/Rural Qualities

Existing Conditions. The presence of numerous private and commercial campgrounds along both banks of the river supports the utilization by some who view the area for its wilderness and rural qualities.

Potential Impacts. No significant adverse impacts are expected to the wilderness and rural qualities of this Tangipahoa River segment.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

e. Scenic/Aesthetic Values

Existing Conditions. This segment of the Tangipahoa River proposed for snagging and clearing activities is designated as a part of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System, and is visited year round by individuals who enjoy its scenic and aesthetic characteristics. However, the scenic and aesthetic values of this portion of the Tangipahoa River are somewhat less than ideal due to the presence of numerous private and commercial camps located on both banks of the river.

Potential Impacts. The scenic and esthetic values of this Tangipahoa River segment would not be significantly adversely impacted by the proposed snagging and clearing activities. The removal

of selected instream obstructions would enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of this river segment.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

f. Recreational Use/Opportunities

Existing Conditions. The segment of the river proposed for snagging and clearing activities is designated as a part of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System. Developed recreation resources found in the proposed project area are limited to numerous private and commercial campgrounds located on both banks of the river segment. Recreational activity occurring in the project area includes both primary and secondary contact recreation. The Tangipahoa River is a popular site for hunting, fishing, tubing, canoeing, and other boating activities. Ponchatoula Beach, Lee's Landing, and Bedico Creek provides public access to the Tangipahoa River. Some sunbathing and swimming activities are pursued by the adjacent campground users.

Potential Impacts. Implementation of the proposed action would cause minimal and temporary effects on recreational resources. Recreational activities occurring within the channel segment being snagged and cleared would be restricted during work, but would return to normal following completion of the proposed work. Removal of instream obstructions would enhance the recreational potential of the project area and permit increased safe use of this waterway.

Mitigation Measures. No measures are required.

g. Ecological Systems Present

Existing Conditions. The seasonal fluctuation of water levels in the Tangipahoa River provides habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic plants and insects, fish, and wildlife. This river provides a major portion of the freshwater input to Lake Pontchartrain and helps to maintain the intermediate to brackish characteristics of the lake. Instream structures consist mainly of fallen trees that function as potential cover and substrate for periphyton, amphibians, fish species, and several species of birds and mammals. The proposed snagging and clearing segment of the river passes through mixed woods and agricultural lands, while river segments below the project area passes through cypress/tupelo swamp prior to entering Lake Pontchartrain.

Potential Impacts. Historically, snagging and clearing operations have been conducted approximately every 4 years on this river reach since 1973. Most recently, clearing and snagging operations were conducted on the Tangipahoa River in January 2000. Snagging and clearing activities would remove a significant portion of the instream structures currently found in the Tangipahoa River between the Highway 22 bridge and Lee's Landing. However, not all instream structures would be removed. Instream structures deemed to be a non-hazard to vessel traffic in the project reach would be allowed to remain to function as cover and substrate for a variety of organisms.

Mitigation Measures. Because some of the instream obstructions will be allowed to remain in the Tangipahoa River to provide cover and substrate, and because on-going processes will continue to result in the accumulation of fallen trees in the river channel to replace the instream obstructions that would be removed by the proposed action, no mitigation measures are required.

h. Fish and Wildlife in the Area

Existing Conditions. Common fish species which occur in the Tangipahoa River include bluegill, red ear, green, and other sunfishes, shadow bass, largemouth and Kentucky spotted bass, channel, blue, bullhead, and madtom catfish, shad, shiners, darters, and various minnows. Amphibians include salamanders, newts, tree frogs, bull frogs, leopard frogs, and toads. Reptiles include common and alligator snapping turtles, Southern painted map, mud and red-eared turtles, southern copperhead, Western cottonmouth, black racer, Eastern garter snakes, and American alligators. Mammalian species found along the Tangipahoa River include otters, beavers, raccoons, nutria, opossum, armadillos, white-tailed deer, gray and fox squirrels, cottontail rabbits, striped skunk, bobcat, red and gray foxes, and coyotes. Game species of birds which may be found along the Tangipahoa River include woodduck, mallards, bobwhite quail, wild turkey, and mourning doves. Non-game bird species include cattle egrets, great egrets, black-crowned night herons, great blue herons, white ibises and a variety of songbirds. The threatened Gulf Sturgeon has been recorded from Lake Pontchartrain and the streams and rivers flowing into the lake. Gulf Sturgeon may potentially be found in the Tangipahoa River during spawning migrations up the river during the late spring and summer months.

Potential Impacts. Fish and wildlife species will disperse from the work area during snagging and clearing activities, but will return following completion of the proposed work. The habitat provided by instream structures to be removed will be lost to fish and other aquatic species. Snagging and clearing activities would be conducted during the months of September through February, when Gulf Sturgeon are not expected to be present in the river. The CEMVN will coordinate the proposed snagging and clearing activities with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No significant adverse impacts to fish, other aquatic life, or wildlife species are expected from the proposed action.

Mitigation Measures. Not all instream structures providing habitat for fish and other aquatic species will be removed by the proposed snagging and clearing activities. Ongoing processes will continue to result in the accumulation of fallen trees in the river channel to replace the instream obstructions that would be removed by the proposed action. No mitigation measures are required.

i. Botanical Elements (Vegetation)

Existing Conditions. The riparian area along the Tangipahoa River consists of a vegetated buffer strip located between the river and uplands that is important to fish and wildlife and functions as a travel corridor. Common riparian plants species include Nuttall oak, river birch, tallowtree, boxelder, cottonwood, sweetgum, sandbar willow, and sycamore. Ground cover includes wild oats, peppervine, switchcane, ragweed, and goldenrod. Between Lee's Landing and Lake Pontchartrain, the river flows through swamp habitat that is characterized by baldcypress, tupelogum, and buttonbush. Instream floating and submerged aquatic vegetation include water hyacinth, coontail, and fanwort.

Potential Impacts. Snagging and clearing activities would only impact trees that have already fallen from the river banks into the river. Trees that are deemed obstructions to be removed but still have their root systems attached to the bankline would be cut off at their base and their

stumps would be allowed to remain attached to the river banks. There would be no significant long-term adverse impact to in-stream vegetation.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.

j. Geological Features

Existing Conditions. The project area lies in the Holocene alluvium geological unit. The Holocene alluvium in the project area forms the relatively flat sloping (2 feet per mile) surface which extends from the 5-foot contour line to the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Soils from the upper reach of the project area from approximately Highway 22 to Lee's Landing are classified as belonging to the Ouachita, Ochlockonee, and Guyton soil complex. These soils are level and gently undulating. They are located on the flood plains of streams. The Ouachita and Ochlockonee soils are well drained and are on low ridges. The Guyton soil is poorly drained and is in low positions on the landscape. Soils below Lee's Landing to Lake Pontchartrain are classified as Barbary muck or Maurepas muck. Barbary muck is a level, very poorly drained, and very fluid mineral soil found in swamps. It is ponded and flooded by fresh water most of the time. Maurepas muck is a level, very poorly drained, very fluid organic soil found in swamps. It is ponded most of the time and frequently flooded by fresh water.

Potential Impacts. No significant adverse impacts are expected to the geological features of the proposed project area.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are warranted.

k. Hydrological Features

Existing Conditions. In the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, the Tangipahoa River is the main stream of the Tangipahoa River watershed. The Tangipahoa River is 110 miles long and drains into Lake Pontchartrain. The drainage area for the Tangipahoa River is 771 square miles. The width of the river varies from a few feet in the upper reaches to about 200 feet near Lake Pontchartrain. Streamflow is fairly rapid in the upper reaches, but becomes tidal in the area adjacent to the lake. Instream structures consists of fallen logs. As the river meanders, the bends migrate downstream and erode the banks, scour the bottoms, and form sand bars opposite to the river bends. The downstream rate of river meanders migration seems high over the past 10 to 20 years. This may have been influenced by the numerous sand and gravel mining disturbances found along the length of the river. The nearshore river bottom is the most productive portion of the river. The hydrography is shallow and gently sloped.

Potential Impacts. Removal of instream obstructions would not significantly impact the hydrology of the Tangipahoa River.

Mitigation Measures. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact upon the hydrological features of the Tangipahoa River; therefore no mitigation measures are warranted.

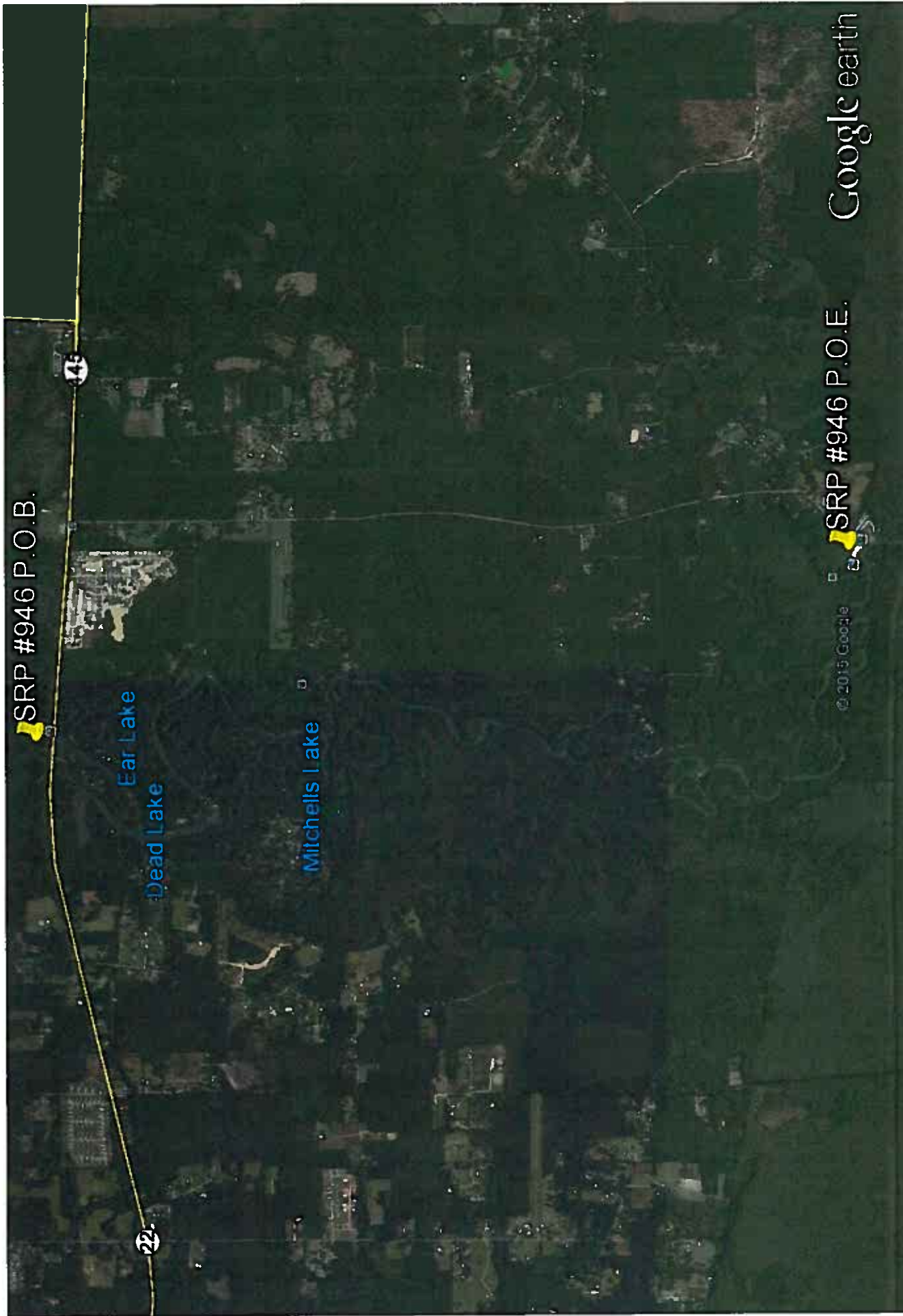
1. Water Quality/Quantity

Existing Conditions. The Tangipahoa River has been closed to primary contact recreation during parts of the year since 1987 due to high bacteria levels. Bacterial contamination in the

Tangipahoa River includes both point and nonpoint sources. Ambient water turbidity varies depending on river discharge. The Tangipahoa River tends to be well oxygenated because of its flowing characteristics. High water events occasionally leave isolated pools, adjacent to the channel, which may become low in dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Potential Impacts. During snagging and clearing operations in the shallow river bottom, exposed anoxic river bottom sediments would temporarily affect dissolved oxygen levels and bottom pH levels. Temporary increases in turbidity would result from the disruption of the bottom sediments.

Mitigation Measures. No mitigation measures are required.



Google earth

